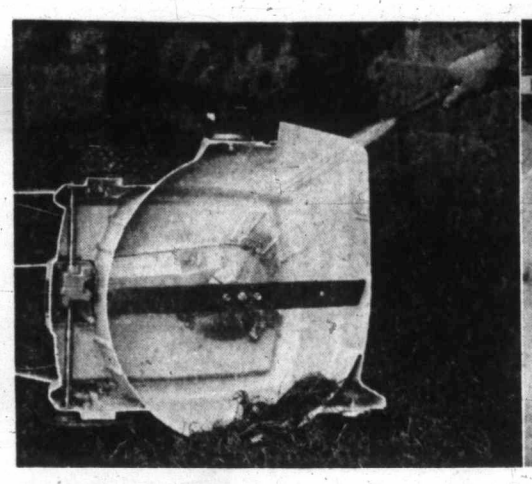
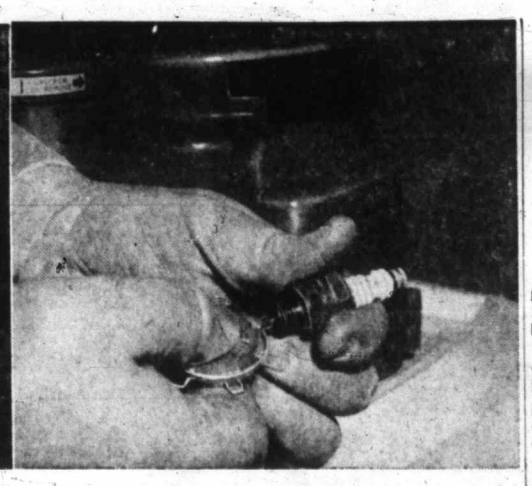


Always keep blade area clean.



Inspect, regap plugs regularly.

★ ★ ★

Better the Care

Mower Maintenance Pays Off

If you're wheeling the mower out for the first assault on the lawn, wheel it right back until it's been spring-conditioned.

Perhaps you gave it no more care than propping it against the garage wall last autumn. Shame on you.

Drain and refill crankcase with fresh lubricating oil.

Remove and wash air filter's mesh and screens; dip in lubricating oil and drain thoroughly before replacing, if it's an oil-type filter. Clean filter out of doors and DON'T SMOKE, as your cleaner will most probably be gasoline.

If yours is a two-cycle engine, detach muffler and scrape accumulated carbon from exhaust ports, exhaust chamber and interior of muffler. (Four-cycle engines won't require this cleaning.)

Set gap of a new spark plug according to manufacturer's instructions, and install. ALWAYS disconnect spark plug wire when mower is not in use, as a safety measure.

If yours is a reel-type mower, have sharpening done at a mower shop.

You can sharpen a rotary mower's blade, but do the job carefully. An unbalanced blade can set up vibration that will quickly wreck engine and mower.

A rough test: suspend blade by cord through centre hole. If blade dips to one side, file opposite side until blade hangs even.

Make sure blade has been snugged down well, and that all connections holding engine to mower deck are tight.

Clean your mower after every use. Tilt on one side and flush undercarriage with garden hose, after engine has cooled. Don't tip far enough for oil to run out of air filter, however.

Latch on to one of the homemaker's old whisk brooms and keep air filter free of leaves and grass.

Don't overfill filter with oil, and do change oil at recommended intervals. Don't oil dry-type filters.

Do lubricate wheel bearings and blade bearings each time you use the mower, following manufacturer's instruction for type of oil.

Sticks, stones, rope, balls, iron pipe, toys, garden tools, dog bones—all are definitely not grist for the mower's mill.

A check of the lawn before mowing saves wear-and-tear on the mower and can prevent injury to someone nearby, as blades will throw objects with considerable force.

Recall: your mower is a precision instrument. Store it carefully, out of the weather.

It's powered. Keep hands and feet away from moving parts and always disconect the spark plug when working on the machine.

Store fuel only in safety can, out of reach of children, and keep a limited supply of fuel on hand.

Never operate a mower without reading instructions carefully. Don't let untutored persons use the machine. Never operate with safety guards removed.

Mow regularly, when grass is dry, and before it grows too tall. On level areas, vary mowing path and direction of cut from time to time. Always mow terraces up and down.

Let qualified repairmen take care of serious mechanical ills. Mowers are rugged, but not fool-proof.

With care, cleaning and considerate operation your mower will cut a swath of added leisure time for you.

★ ★ ★

Air filter must be kept clean for best operation.

Always keep connections tight to avoid rattles.

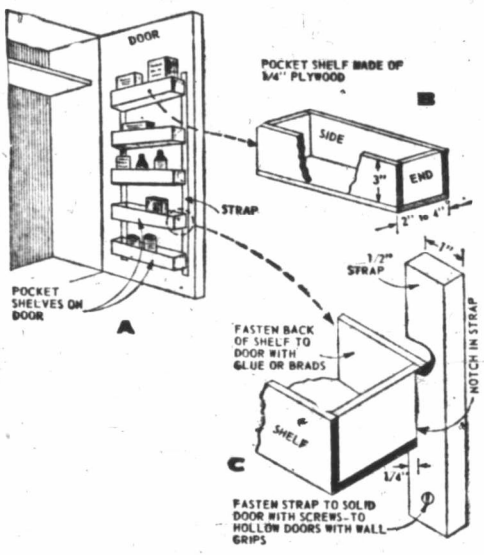
Do-It-Yourself

Wasteful Space Behind Doors Excellent for Small Shelves

By J. RALPH DALZELL

Home owners plagued by the problem of how to efficiently and conveniently store small items, including boxes, bottles and other necessities, can use waste space on inside surfaces of closet and pantry doors.

The typical closet door shown at point A in the picture shows how small pocket shelves can be used for storage. Metal shelves can be purchased ready for installation, or the home owner can easily and economically make similar shelves using a small quantity of quarter-inch plywood, two half by one-inch straps, glue and three-quarter-inch brads. Tools required include only a saw, hammer, square and sandpaper.



SEVERAL PER DOOR

Pocket shelves (see picture B) can be from two to four inches deep and about 24 inches long, depending upon the width of the door. From five to seven shelves can be planned on most doors. Plan the location of the top pocket shelf so it will be a few inches below any closet shelf, as shown in picture A.

The bottom pocket shelf should be at least four inches above the floor. Draw the outlines of the shelves on the door to help planning. For five shelves, each two feet long and having dimensions shown in picture B, a plywood panel three by four feet is needed.

EQUAL SIZE

Cut the two sides of each shelf first, making sure they are the same size and square. Then cut the two end pieces the same size and square in all respects.

Fasten the sides and ends together, as shown in the picture, using wood glue and brads spaced a half inch apart. Finally cut and fit the bottom piece and fasten it into place.

Two straps are required as shown in picture A to hold the shelves. The tops and bottoms of the straps can extend above the top shelf about one inch. Draw the positions of the straps on the door, then measure the distance between the shelves and cut the notches in the straps as shown in picture C. Notches should be a quarter inch deep and three and a quarter inches long.

FASTEN TO DOORS

Fasten the straps to solid doors with three-quarter inch flathead wood screws. Use star wall grips, for which holes must be drilled through the straps and door shell on hollow doors. Sandpaper the shelves smooth, and after both straps have been installed, install the shelves. Slip them into the notches and then fasten the back side of each shelf to the door with brads.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q—Is it best to have a series of attractive room color schemes in a house?

A—Modern colorists now advocate a single color scheme adaptable with variations to an entire house, indoors and outdors. It gives a house a restful feeling, and furniture and accessories can be transferred successfully from one room to another.

Q—How should arbors and trellis be painted?

A—Use a non-staining type of special coating, especially near the ground, to prevent rotting. Then apply one or two coats of regular house or trim-and-trellis paint in a color harmonious to the house.

Q—What is a "wipe finish" on furniture?

A—Starting with new wood surfaces, enamel can be thinned and applied to the wood, working along the grain. When this "stain" partially dries, wipe across the grain with a dry cloth. Leave as much stain as preferred. Then apply several coats of varnish, and sandpaper lightly between coats. Finish with a rubbed effect varnish.

Last Platypus In Zoo Dead

NEW YORK (AP)—Pamela, the last of the Bronx Zoo platypuses, is dead. Pamela and two platypus companions were brought to the zoo from Australia last June. Her companions died of undetermined causes during the winter.

Buying a House? Watch Your Step

By EDWARD COWAN
United Press International

A house is probably the biggest, most expensive, most important thing you'll ever buy.

If it doesn't fit or doesn't work right you can't take it back and get a refund. You probably couldn't afford to chuck it out and buy another one, either.

So, in buying a house, you want to be especially sure you get the right one—the one you can enjoy, afford and take pride in.

One thing you can tell better than anyone else is whether the house—either a new one or one that's been previously occupied—is suitable for your family's needs.

Does it have enough bedrooms?

Are the rooms big enough for your future needs?

★ ★ ★

Whether you'll enjoy living in the house will also depend on the neighborhood it's in. Pick one where there are neighbors you would probably like—folks who are of similar economic circumstances and may share some of your interests. Local bankers, real estate agents, merchants, or almost anyone else who's been around a while would be good people to inquire of.

A very important feature of the neighborhood is its schools. Are they within walking distance of the house you're considering?

★ ★ ★

If you're a one-car family and that car goes downtown to work every morning, better check carefully on the distance from the house to the shopping centre.

A readily available clue to the neighborhood's future is whether its residents keep their buildings and property well maintained — painted, repaired, trimmed, policed of debris. If the houses look unkempt and decaying, you can be pretty sure that property values are in danger.

One of the biggest worries for people buying a house—especially their first—is: How do I know I'm not being gypped?

★ ★ ★

Well, there are several things you can do to make sure you don't pay too much for your house and/or that it's not chock full of defects not immediately visible.

One thing is to know the market. Look at and price many houses to get an idea of the going rates.

But you yourself can also test the house in a variety of ways, examine the floors beneath the carpeting. They may be marred or stained badly in places you don't plan to carpet over. If electrical appliances go with the house, try them out.

Poke around the basement and look for traces of mildew and water stains, signs of seepage and rotting timbers or cracked concrete. If you see any number of discarded blown fuses, or a big supply of fresh ones, ask why.

Check the fit on inside and outside doors. If the space between the bottom of a door and the sill is wider at one side than the other, something is sagging—the house, the door, the frame or possibly the floor.

How much can you afford to pay for a house? Most authorities agree that there are two rules-of-thumb to keep in mind: Don't buy a house that costs more than two-and-a-half your annual income; don't load yourself down with a monthly payment obligation that exceeds a quarter of your monthly income.

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